

pect that this work will be toted as the flagship of Pacific archaeology for years to come. As the years go by, and new themes in Pacific prehistory develop, *On the Road of the Winds* will remain an excellent historical statement of the current condition of the field.

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### *Te Moana Nui. Exploring Lost Isles of the South Pacific*

Georgia Lee

Easter Island Foundation, 2001. [rapanuibooks@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rapanuibooks@worldnet.att.net) \$25  
 ISBN 1-880636-19-0

Review by Paul G. Bahn

The latest in the Easter Island Foundation's excellent series of publications constitutes a delightful journey through a wide variety of islands in the South Pacific – including Rapa Nui – in the company of Georgia Lee who has had the rare good fortune to visit them all aboard the cruise ship *World Discoverer*. This is a book which can be either dipped into or read cover to cover – it contains something for everyone, from pre-history to scandals, from artistic rogues to sadistic clergymen, from warfare to movies, from pearls to politics, from Robinson Crusoe to Moby Dick – and of course there is the ever-popular mutiny on the *Bounty* and many other ripping yarns.

For each island or group, a map is provided, as well as a timeline of important events. In each case, the author gives us a brief history of the island, and of the characters involved in it, as well as of the present-day conditions of the place and its people. Alongside the many familiar tales such as those of Paul Gauguin or Alexander Selkirk, one encounters fascinating tidbits such as the fact that it was Pitcairn Island which was the first community anywhere to adopt women's suffrage and compulsory education, or that Easter Island is probably the only place in the world where introduced rabbits were eaten by people before they could multiply! In the margins one finds a well-chosen potpourri of quotations from poems, chants, songs, letters and texts, featuring people as diverse as Bill Mulloy, Carlyle Smith, Rupert Brooke and Herman Melville. Overall, the book's design is outstanding, with chapter openings strikingly superimposed on large photographs, and one can forgive the occasional typographic error and a bibliography that is not always in alphabetical order.

This miscellaneous collection of studies of the often tragic pasts and uncertain futures of these wonderful and remote islands is warmly recommended to all those who have any kind of interest in the Pacific region. Who can resist tales of pirate treasure and castaways?

### *Possessive Markers in Central Pacific Languages*

Edited by Steven Roger Fischer

Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung, Universität Bremen, Postfach 22 04 40, D28334 Bremen, Germany

Review by Joseph C. Finney

This book was published as a special issue of the German (Berlin) journal, *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung*, with the translating subtitle: "Language Typology and Universals". In all the papers quoted here, an asterisk denotes a hypothetical reconstruction of an ancestral form, and not an ungrammatical form (its other common use).

The Central Pacific languages (a group with common ancestry) are the Polynesian languages (and dialects), the Fijian communalects (where the distinctions between languages and dialects is unclear), and Rotuman. Fijian and Rotuman probably share a common ancestry that is not shared by Polynesians. Central Pacific is a unit within Oceanic, a subgroup within Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, which is a subdivision of Malayo-Polynesian, which is one of the ten divisions of the Austronesian family of languages.

Of the twelve papers, one deals with the Central Pacific group as a whole, one with Fijian, one with Rotuman, one with the Polynesian group as a whole; and each of the remaining eight deals with a specific Polynesian language: (Tongan and Niuēan in the Tongic group; Tokelauan, Pileni, and East Uvean in the Samoic-Outlier group; and Rapanui, Hawaiian, and Māori in East Polynesian).

The guest editor, Steven Fisher, who also contributed a paper, did well in his selection of the eleven other authors to cover various languages of Central Pacific. The authors know their languages well and they have very ably analyzed the marking of possessive markers in Central Pacific Languages.

#### JOHN LYNCH'S HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Lynch begins his historical overview by noting that Central Pacific is a division of the Oceanic languages, which includes some 450 languages. That is about half the (1000 or so) languages in the Austronesian family, though Oceanic is a small sub-sub-sub division within the family. Citing his own work and others, he notes that Proto-Oceanic (henceforth POc) had two basic ways of marking possession. The simpler and perhaps older one was Direct possession. It was used in POc for certain inalienable relations, notably kin terms, parts of something, and passive possession, things done to the possessor (his destruction of her).

Direct possession puts the possessed thing at the left, after its article (ART). The possessor is on the right. Because of ancestral syntactic changes that we need not consider (ancestral genitive-ergative becoming nominative in Proto Central-Eastern MP), it is hard to tell whether an "of" element is present at the beginning of the possessor pronoun suffix or not. The issue is not discussed. If the possessor is a pronoun, it is attached as a suffix on the possessed object. Lynch's examples from Proto-Oceanic (hence preceded by an asterisk) are:

Direct possession is almost totally lost in Rotuman and